

**Meeting Minutes for Hardwick Downtown Commission/Partnership  
Birdsong Beer & Wine  
Monday, November 21, 9 a.m.**

Present: Shari Cornish, Emily Hershberger, Sandy Scott, Bethany Dunbar, Darcie McCann, Katie Tandy, Opie Upton, Gary Michaels, Tracy Martin, Tobin Porter

- Minutes from last meeting submitted for approval. Gary made the motion to approve, Tobin seconded; motion carried.

Item 1: Shari shared, prior to the meeting, via email, the draft of a letter of support for the Municipal Planning Grant to be used to hire a consultant. Tobin motioned to approve the letter, Bethany seconded; motion carried.

Item 2: Elect Board of Directors for Hardwick Downtown Partnership

- The 7 current members will remain on the board
- Opie Upton is the town's staff liaison, Shari Cornish is the Select Board liaison - both appointed by the town, per the bylaws of the Hardwick Downtown Partnership.
- Nora Lakhani will join the board, making 8 directors
  - Opie is acting as a town liaison and will abstain from all votes.
- In order to create a staggered turnover of board members, half of directors will serve a two year term, the other half will serve three years. Following the initial two year terms, directors for those positions will be elected for three year terms as well.
  - Shari Cornish, 3 years
  - Gary Michaels, 2 years
  - Bethany Dunbar, 2 years
  - Emily Hershberger, 3 years
  - Tobin Porter, 3 years
  - Katie Tandy, 2 years
  - Nora Lakhani, 3 years
  - Sandy Scott, 2 years
- Tobin motioned to approve this board of directors, Emily seconded; motion carried.
- Officers for the Hardwick Downtown Commission have all offered to remain in their positions for their allotted terms:
  - President, Shari Cornish
  - Vice President, Bethany Dunbar
  - Secretary, Sandy Scott
  - Treasurer, Gary Michaels
- Tobin motioned to approve the election of our current roster of officers, Katie seconded; motion carried.

Item 3: Approve bylaws for the Hardwick Downtown Partnership

- These were reviewed at our last meeting. Emily motioned to approve, Bethany seconded; motion carried.

Item 4: Approve the 5 Year Strategic Plan

- Reviewed at our last meeting. Some business & building names listed in the plan need to be corrected. Gary motioned to approve the plan, pending these amendments, Sandy seconded; motion carried.

Item 5: Approve the Community Reinvestment Agreement

- Reviewed at our last meeting. Bethany motioned to approve, Nora seconded; motion carried.
- All directors signed the agreement.

Item 6: Next meeting and upcoming Select Board meeting

- Next meeting is tentative - we may not need to meet in December if Heather doesn't have any pressing matters for us to address in person.
- Heather will present her final proposal to the Hardwick Select Board before going to the state; at the Select Board meeting, the Hardwick Downtown Commission will officially be dissolved.
- Board members are encouraged to attend the Select Board meeting to support Heather's presentation.

Item 7: Other business

- Red banners and new lights around lamp posts will be going up this week.
- Discussion of marijuana use by employees of a downtown business in public spaces, close to business doorways. This practice is not legal and needs to be addressed.
  - The town is working on signage to address smoking, vaping, and cannabis use, with a goal of promoting healthy lifestyle choices.
- Updates on the Blue Donkey - the owner is applying for zoning for this restaurant in December.
- Future of the Scale House is uncertain, as is information about the grant acquired by Lamoille Housing Partnership with the Scale House. A business summit is still planned.
- \$5,000 is available through the VoRec grant for collaborative efforts - this might be used to support the business summit and marketing plans for Hardwick (the understood goals of the above-mentioned grant).
- The NEK Chamber of Commerce is working on the Heart of Vermont website.
  - Darcie is available to the Downtown Partnership and downtown businesses as an advocate when needed.
- Future board meetings will be quarterly and will be open to the public.
  - Uncertain as to whether the Downtown Partnership, as a non-profit, falls under Open Meeting Law for posting meetings.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:01 a.m.